

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Chaplain, Lutheran Social Services, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O mighty God, the seasons of the year are ordered by Your will and there is a time for everything under the sun. Wisdom teaches us that there is a time to plant and a time to grow, a time to harvest and a time to lay fallow.

We know also that the seasons of our lives are part of Your divine order and their rhythm is like the ebb and the flow of the tide, the springtime of youth, the summer of labor, the autumn of maturity, and the winter of reflection.

O God, by Your goodness, we make a living by what we earn. But we make a life by what we give. So help us give thanks for Your blessings, give hope to the forlorn, give love to the lonely, and give joy to the disheartened.

And on this day of grace, O God, we pray for the circle of our families, for the circle of our friends, for the circle of our colleagues, and for the circle of our Nation, the United States of America.

Order our days in Your peace, and bless our deeds with Your grace so that, in whatever season of life it is our destiny to live, we may find satisfaction in our past and be awarded courage for the unknown tomorrows. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VITTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 76. Joint resolution waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2000.

The message also announced that in accordance with sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation

to the North Atlantic Assembly (NATO parliamentary Assembly) during the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, November 11-15, 1999—the Senator from Iowa Mr. GRASSLEY; the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT); and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA).

THANKS TO REVEREND DR. RONALD F. CHRISTIAN FOR LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

(Mr. DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to give my personal thanks and those of the House of Representatives to the Reverend Dr. Ronald Christian, who was our guest chaplain today and has just led us in the beautiful opening prayer.

But in a sense Dr. Christian is not a guest in this Chamber, for during the last 20 years he has served as an unofficial chaplain in the House and since 1979 he has assisted Dr. Ford with the duties of the chaplaincy and participated in all the activities associated with that office. He has given the opening prayer on more than 90 occasions and has been available for pastoral counsel for Members and staff.

Dr. Christian grew up on a farm in Illinois and attended a country church where his mother was the church organist. He was graduated from the Luther College in Iowa and Luther Seminary in Minnesota and in 1979 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Ministry from Luther College. He was the founding pastor of Lord of Life Church in Fairfax, Virginia, and under his leadership the church grew to be one of the largest Lutheran churches in the metropolitan area.

He is married to Judy Christian and they have two children, Matthew and Mary Jo. Dr. Christian is now the Director and Chaplain of Lutheran Social Services in Northern Virginia.

We are honored that Dr. Christian was our chaplain today, and we thank him for the 20 years of faithful service to the House.

APPOINTING REVEREND DR. JAMES DAVID FORD AS CHAPLAIN EMERITUS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I call up the resolution, (H. Res. 373) that immediately following his resignation as Chaplain of the House of Representatives and in recognition of the length of his devoted service to the House, Reverend James David Ford be, and he is hereby, appointed Chaplain emeritus of the House of Representatives, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to my good friend the gentleman from Wisconsin to explain his resolution.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is offered in appreciation and thanks for the 20 years of service to the House, its Members, and its employees by our colleague and friend, the Chaplain of the House, the Reverend James David Ford; and I urge its adoption.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve my right to object, I am very happy to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), the Honorable Speaker of the House.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dr. Ford and his devoted service to this House. He is a man of this House. He is a colleague. He is a friend. He is a counselor.

He has touched the lives of many Members in countless ways. He has married us. He has kept marriages together. He has baptized our children. He has visited us in the hospital. He has been with our families as we bid farewell to our beloved colleagues. And, very simply, he has been there when we needed him. He has made us laugh when we did not think we could, and he has made us introspective when we wanted to look elsewhere.

For me personally and the entire House, he was there that tragic day a little over a year ago when a gunman changed our lives in this House forever. He was there for the fallen heroes. He was there for their families. He was there for those of us who knew them well and whose lives were saved by their heroic actions. For that, I will be forever grateful.

Dr. Ford is not allowed to speak on the House floor, and we are not about to break that tradition, even for an emeritus chaplain. But I think it fitting on this occasion to quote him from his charge to the Chaplain Search Committee.

I have been honored to have served you as Chaplain for nearly 20 years, and I leave with deep appreciation for the vital work of the Congress and the people who serve this place so faithfully. I continue with enthusiastic support for this institution, our democracy, and with a sense of thanksgiving for the opportunities that I have been given.

Thank you, Dr. Ford, and may God bless you in the years ahead.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am very happy to yield to my colleague the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me just echo the eloquent remarks of our Speaker in appreciation for the many years of service by Dr. Ford.